

Application No.: 10/762,776
Amendments dated May 1, 2007
Response

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A bracket assembly for interconnecting first and second elongate structural members, said bracket assembly comprising first and second cooperating brackets aligned in a confronting relationship and connector means comprising first and second bolts for interconnecting said first and second cooperating brackets to the first and second elongate structural members and to each other, said first and second brackets each comprising.

- (a) a generally planar surface having a first portion and second portion, said first portion engaging the first elongate structural member and said second portion engaging the second elongate structural member;
- (b) a first wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said first portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the first structural member;

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- (c) a second wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member;
- (d) a third wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second wall; and
- (e) a fourth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said third wall for engaging the first structural member.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 1 in which said connector means comprises a first bolt for interconnecting said first portion of said generally planar surface with the first ~~elongating~~ elongate structural member and a second bolt for interconnecting said second portion of said generally planar surface with the second elongate structural member.

Claim 3 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 1 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surface of each of said first and second brackets is provided with a plurality of spaced apart, lanced out areas which form protruding tabs for penetrating the first and second elongate structural members.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 1 further including a fifth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly

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from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member.

Claim 5 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 1 in which said third wall of each of said first and second assembly brackets is generally triangular in shape.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 1 in which each of said first and second portion of said generally planar surfaces of said first and second brackets ~~and~~ is generally rectangular in shape.

Claim 7 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 6 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surfaces has a major axis and a minor axis, said major axis of said second portion extending at an angle with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 8 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 7 in which said major axis of said second portion extends at an angle of about ninety degrees with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The bracket assembly as defined in claim ~~[[8]]~~ 7 in which said major axis of said second portion extends ~~of~~ at an angle of less than ninety degrees with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A bracket assembly for interconnecting first and second elongate structural members, said bracket assembly comprising substantially identical first and second cooperating brackets aligned in a confronting relationship and connector means for interconnecting said first and second cooperating brackets to the first and second elongate structural members and to each other, said first and second brackets each comprising:

- (a) a generally planar surface having a first portion and second portion, said first portion engaging the first elongate structural member and said second portion engaging the second elongate structural member;
- (b) a first wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said first portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the first structural member;
- (c) a second wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member;
- (d) a third wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second wall;
- (e) a fourth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said third wall for engaging the first structural member; and

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(f) a fifth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicular from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member.

Claim 11 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 10 in which said connector means comprises a first bolt for interconnecting said first portion of said generally planar surface with the first elongating structural member and a second bolt for interconnecting said second portion of said generally planar surface with the second elongate structural member.

Claim 12 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 10 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surface of each of said first and second brackets is provided with a plurality of spaced apart, lanced out areas which form protruding tabs for penetrating the first and second elongate structural members.

Claim 13 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 10 in which said third wall of each of said first and second assembly brackets is generally triangular in shape.

Claim 14 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 10 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surfaces has a major

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axis and a minor axis, said major axis of said second portion extending at an angle with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 15 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 14 in which said major axis of said second portion extends at an angle of about ninety degrees with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 16 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 14 in which said major axis of said second portion extends of an angle of less than ninety degrees with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 17 (currently amended): A bracket assembly for interconnecting first and second elongate structural members, said bracket assembly comprising first and second cooperating brackets and connector means comprising spaced apart bolts for interconnecting together said first and second cooperating brackets and for connecting said first and second cooperating brackets to said first and second elongate structural members, said first and second brackets each comprising:

- (a) a generally planar surface having a first generally rectangular portion and second generally rectangular portion, said first generally rectangular portion engaging the first elongate structural member and said second generally rectangular portion engaging the second elongate structural member;

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- (b) a first wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said first portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the first structural member;
- (c) a second wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member;
- (d) a generally triangular shaped third wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second wall;
- (e) a fourth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said third wall for engaging the first structural member; and
- (f) a fifth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicular from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member.

Claim 18 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 17 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surface of each of said first and second brackets is provided with a plurality of spaced apart, lanced out areas which form protruding tabs for penetrating the first and second elongate structural members.

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Claim 19 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 17 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surfaces has a major axis and a minor axis, said major axis of said second portion extending at an angle with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 20 (original): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 19 in which said major axis of said second portion extends at an angle of about ninety degrees with respect to said major axis of said first portion.

Claim 21 (new): A bracket assembly for interconnecting first and second elongate structural members comprising:

- (a) first and second substantially identical cooperating brackets disposed in engagement with the first and second elongate structural members in a confronting relationship, each of said first and second brackets comprising:
 - (i) a generally planar surface having a first generally rectangular portion and second generally rectangular portion, said first generally rectangular portion engaging the first elongate structural member and said second generally rectangular portion engaging the second elongate structural member;
 - (ii) a first wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said first portion of said generally planar surface

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for engaging the first structural member;

(iii) a second wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member;

(iv) a generally triangular shaped third wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said second wall;

(v) a fourth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicularly from said third wall for engaging the first structural member; and

(vi) a fifth wall connected to and extending generally perpendicular from said second portion of said generally planar surface for engaging the second structural member; and

(b) first and second spaced apart connector members for interconnecting together said first and second cooperating brackets and for interconnecting said first and second cooperating brackets with the first and second elongated structural members.

Claim 22 (new): The bracket assembly as defined in claim 21 in which each of said first and second portions of said generally planar surface of each of said first and second brackets is provided with a plurality of spaced apart, lanced out

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areas which form protruding tabs for penetrating the first and second elongate structural members.